

COMING TO AMERICA



IMMIGRATION

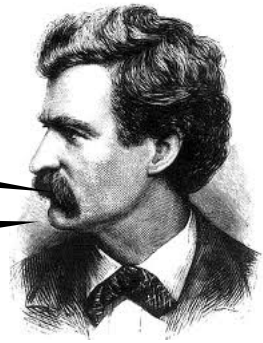


BY MR. ERIC HEAGY, HOWE ACADEMY, INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
H. ROBERT BRADY, SKUNKWORKS OPEN MEDIA FOR LEARNING

THE 1880S SAW THE BEGINNING OF A FLOOD OF IMMIGRANTS THAT LASTED UNTIL THE EARLY 1920S.

ONE GROUP OF THESE IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM ITALY.

WE NEED TO MOVE TO AMERICA.



ITALY HAD BECOME A UNITED COUNTRY ABOUT THE TIME OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. MANY PEOPLE WERE EXCITED BY THE IDEA OF A NEW ITALY.

BY THE 1880S, MANY PEOPLE IN ITALY WERE LESS EXCITED. THEIR LIVES HAD NOT DRASTICALLY IMPROVED.

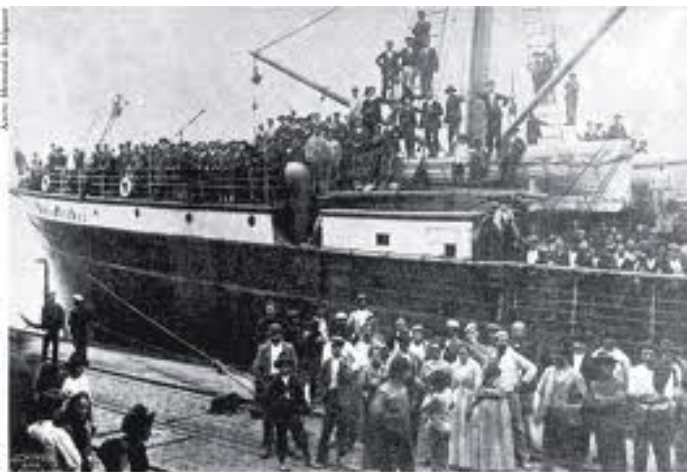
IN INCREASING NUMBERS, THESE DISGRUNTLED ITALIANS CLIMBED ABOARD STEAM SHIPS AND SAILED TO THE UNITED STATES.

THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY IN ITALY. WE MUST FIND A NEW OPPORTUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES.



THESE SHIPS DOCKED IN THE MAJOR EAST COAST CITIES OF THE U.S.: NEW ORLEANS, BALTIMORE, PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK CITY, AND BOSTON.

BY FAR, THE LARGEST NUMBER CAME TO NEW YORK CITY. THEY WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY ALLOWED INTO THE CITY. INSTEAD THEY WERE SENT TO ELLIS ISLAND



Descarburque de imigrantes no Porto de Santos (SP), 1907.



EVERYBODY LINE UP WITH YOUR PAPERS.



THEY WERE INTERVIEWED, REGISTERED, AND EXAMINED BY MEDICAL SERVICES. THOSE WITH DISEASES WERE OFTEN SENT BACK TO ITALY. MOST, HOWEVER, GOT THROUGH THE PROCESS AND WERE TAKEN TO NEW YORK CITY.

ELLIS ISLAND WAS THE ONE LAST OBSTACLE BETWEEN IMMIGRANTS AND A NEW LIFE IN AMERICA. IT WAS A STRESSFUL SITUATION FOR PEOPLE WHO SPOKE NO ENGLISH, WANTED VERY MUCH TO COMPLY WITH ANYTHING NEEDED TO GET INTO THE COUNTRY AND OFTEN SUFFERED HEALTH PROBLEMS.



WHAT WILL WE DO IF MAMA CANNOT GET INTO THE COUNTRY WITH US?



THIS WOMAN IS NEARLY BLIND. WE CAN'T ADMIT HER. SHE WILL HAVE TO GO BACK.

ALRIGHT, WHAT IS YOUR NAME? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHY ARE YOU COMING TO AMERICA? DO YOU HAVE RELATIVES HERE?



8 Facts you may or may not know about Ellis Island

1 It was called Gibbet Island in the early 18th century after a group of pirates were hung from gibbets there.

8 At its peak in 1907, the Immigration Station processed a record 1.25 million immigrants; 11,747 were processed in a single day.

2 Immigrants had to answer 29 questions to gain citizenship. Approximately 2 percent of all immigrants failed due to criminal records, disease, or other undesirable responses.

3 The station dining room was capable of housing approximately 1,000 people at once.



7 A kitchen fire on June 15, 1897 destroyed the entire station. The flow of immigrants had to rerouted to a temporary location until the station was rebuilt and reopened in 1900.

4 The remains of 6 Native Americans were removed from Ellis and Liberty Islands and have since been returned to their resting places by the National Park Service.

6 As immigration slowed during World War I, the island was used as a way-station for the Army and Navy.

5 The immigration station processed its last immigrants on November 12, 1954. Today, it functions as a museum.

Sources: The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition, Steve Chabotte, and The Record

Created by: SocialSecurityDeathIndex-Search.com



ONCE CLEARED, THE IMMIGRANTS WERE TAKEN FROM ELLIS ISLAND TO THE DOCKS OF NEW YORK CITY.

EXCEPT FOR THE ITALIANS, MOST OF THE EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM EASTERN EUROPE. THEY CAME FROM HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, AND SLOVENIA, ALL PARTS OF THE OLD AUSTRIAN EMPIRE. OTHERS CAME FROM POLAND, WHICH WAS THEN RULED BY TSARIST RUSSIA. THESE IMMIGRANTS TENDED TO BE ROMAN CATHOLIC IN RELIGION.



THERE WERE ALSO LARGE NUMBERS OF JEWS WHO FLED TSARIST RUSSIA.



IN RUSSIA, JEWS WERE OFTEN ATTACKED AND KILLED BY THE TSAR'S SOLDIERS. MANY RUSSIANS HATED THE JEWS AND WANTED TO BE RID OF THEM.



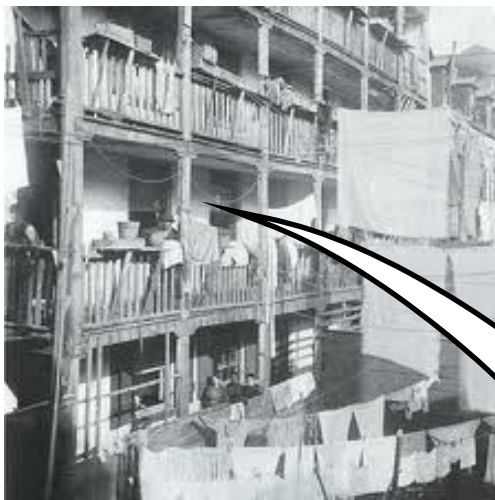
WE MUST GET OUT OF THE REALM OF THE TSAR OR WE'LL ALL BE DEAD.

KILL 'EM ALL.

IN THE MAJOR AMERICAN CITIES, ETHNIC COMMUNITIES DEVELOPED. HERE YOU SEE WHAT CAME TO BE CALLED LITTLE ITALY IN NEW YORK CITY.



ITALIAN QUARTER PHILADELPHIA



LIVING PACKED TOGETHER LEAD TO SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS INCLUDING EPIDEMICS.

WE MADE OUR HOME IN WHAT WAS CALLED TENEMENT BUILDINGS. THESE WERE THREE TO FOUR STORY BUILDINGS WITH VERY SMALL APARTMENTS WHERE ENTIRE FAMILIES MIGHT LIVE IN ONE CRAMPED ROOM LIKE THIS ONE.



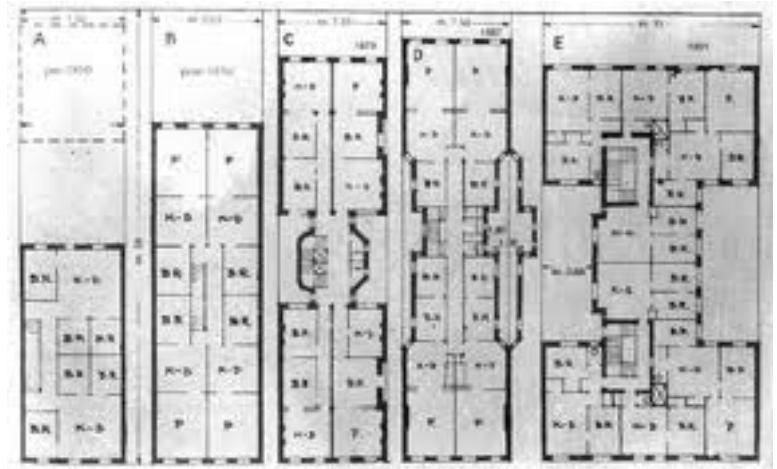
TENEMENTS WERE CLUSTER CLOSE TOGETHER. THE TENEMENT DISTRICT WAS A VERY DANGEROUS PLACE WITH A HIGH CRIME RATE. FIRES SOMETIMES BURNED DOWN WHOLE COMMUNITIES. TENEMENTS WERE KNOWN FOR THEIR FILTH AND STENCH.



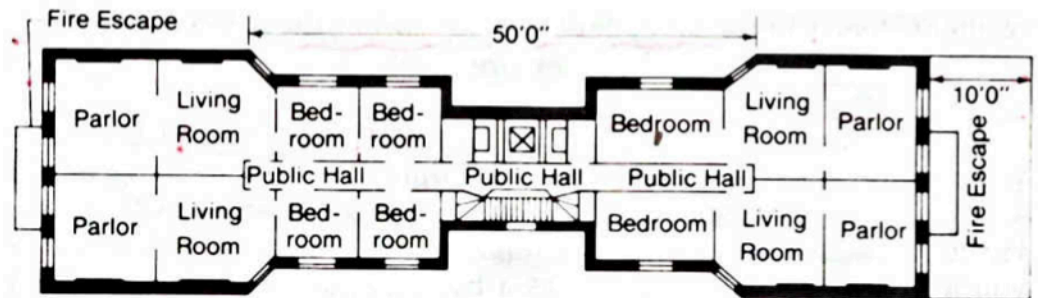
WE NOT ONLY LIVED IN OUR TENEMENT, WE OFTEN WORKED IN OUR TENEMENT. OUR FAMILY MAKES GARMENTS AND WAS PAID BY THE PIECE.



THE BUILDINGS WERE SO CLOSE TOGETHER, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET FRESH AIR. PEOPLE USUALLY TOOK THEIR GARBAGE AND TOSSED IT IN THE COURTYARD, DOWN THE STAIRWELL, OR IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING CREATING A GREAT STINK.



HERE IS THE PLAN FOR A TENEMENT. YOU SEE FOUR APARTMENTS. IN REALITY, LANDLORD USUALLY PUT ONE FAMILY IN EACH OF THE ROOMS SO THEY COULD COLLECT MORE RENT.



DUMBBELL TENEMENT

EACH FLOOR SHARED A COMMON INDOOR TOILET



MANY EAST EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS MOVED TO PITTSBURGH WHERE THEY WORKED IN ANDREW CARNEGIE'S STEEL MILLS. THEY WORKED 12 HOUR SHIFTS AND ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS WORKED A 24 HOUR DAY TO SWITCH OVER THE NIGHT AND DAY SHIFTS.

ONLY
15 HOURS
TO GO AND MY
SHIFT IS
OVER.



Shoveling Coke into a Steel Mill Furnace

THE BIG BOSSES LIKE
CARNEGIE AND FRICK
SET OUR WAGES.
WHEN THE ECONOMY
WOULD GO BAD, THEY
WOULD JUST CUT OUR
WAGES IN HALF.

EVERY WEEK AT
LEAST 2 OR THREE
PEOPLE WERE
SERIOUSLY INJURED IN
THE STEEL MILLS.
IF YOU WERE
INJURED, YOU WERE
FIRED AND OFTEN
TURNED OUT ONTO
THE STREETS.

MANY AMERICANS WHOSE FAMILIES HAD BEEN
HERE FOR SEVERAL GENERATIONS HATED US.
OTHER AMERICANS WERE VERY WORRIED ABOUT
HAVING LARGE NUMBERS OF ROMAN CATHOLICS
COMING INTO THE COUNTRY. CATHOLICS COULD
NOT BE TRUSTED TO RESPECT A DEMOCRACY.

WE REALLY ASKED
NOTHING BUT THE
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE
A DECENT JOB THAT
COULD PAY FOR A
ROOF OVER OUR
HEADS, FOOD IN OUR
STOMACHS, AND
CLOTHES ON OUR
BODIES.



HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS ERECTED IN
HAUGHVILLE, THE AREA WEST OF WHITE RIVER IN INDIANAPOLIS
FROM WASHINGTON STREET TO 16TH STREET.



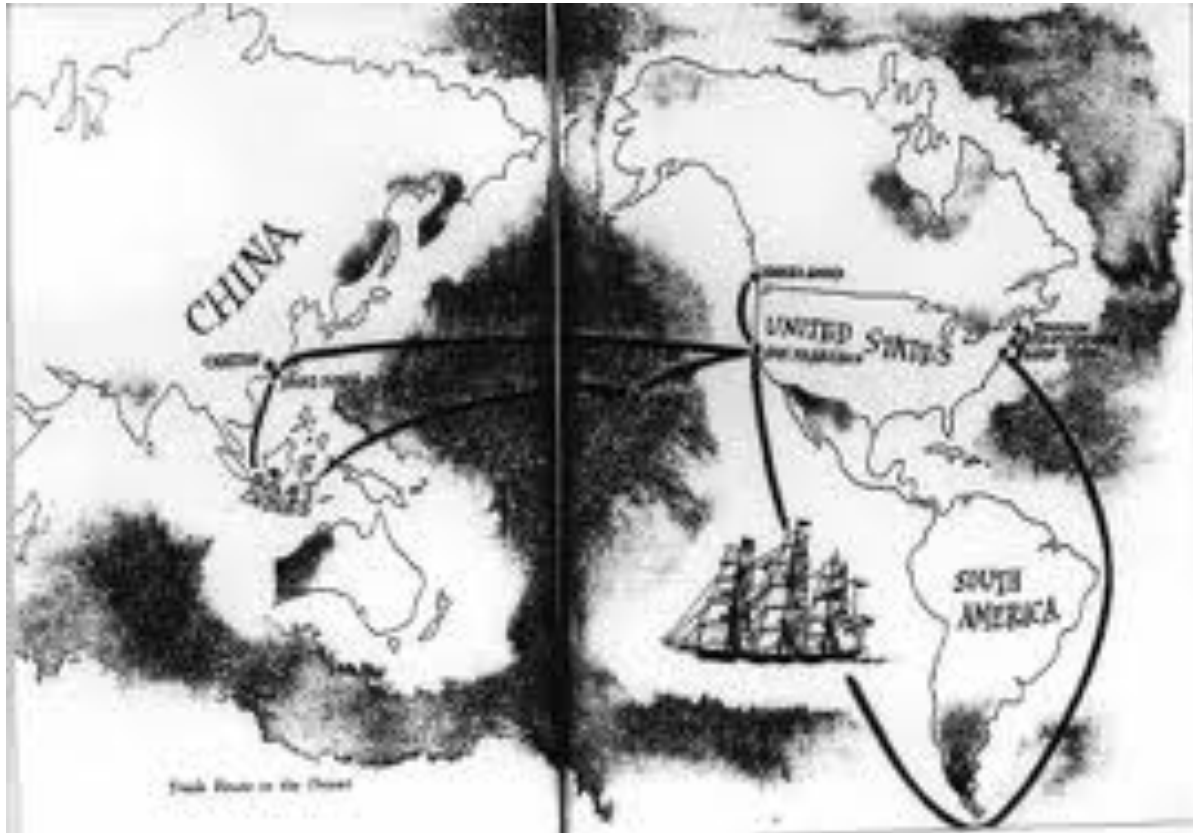
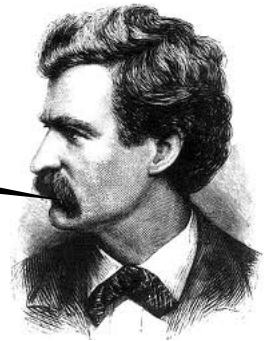
DURING THE 1880S, WE SLOVENIANS
MOVED INTO HAUGHVILLE AND
WORKED AT THE HAUGHVILLE IRON
WORKS.

HAUGHVILLE WAS NOT PART OF
INDIANAPOLIS THEN. IT WAS IN
WHAT WAS THEN CALLED WEST
INDIANAPOLIS.



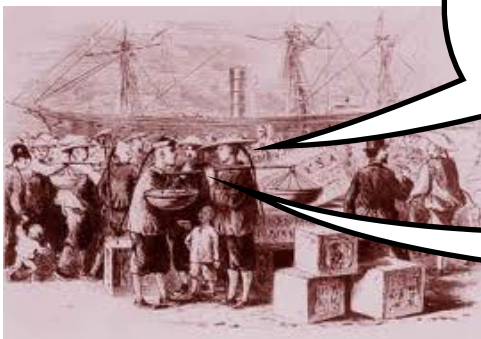
IMMIGRANTS ALSO ARRIVED ON THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY 1880, MANY OF THOSE IMMIGRANTS HAD COME FROM JAPAN AND WHERE THEN COMING FROM CHINA. CHINESE IMMIGRATION WAS BITTERLY OPPOSED BY WHITE AMERICANS IN THE WEST.

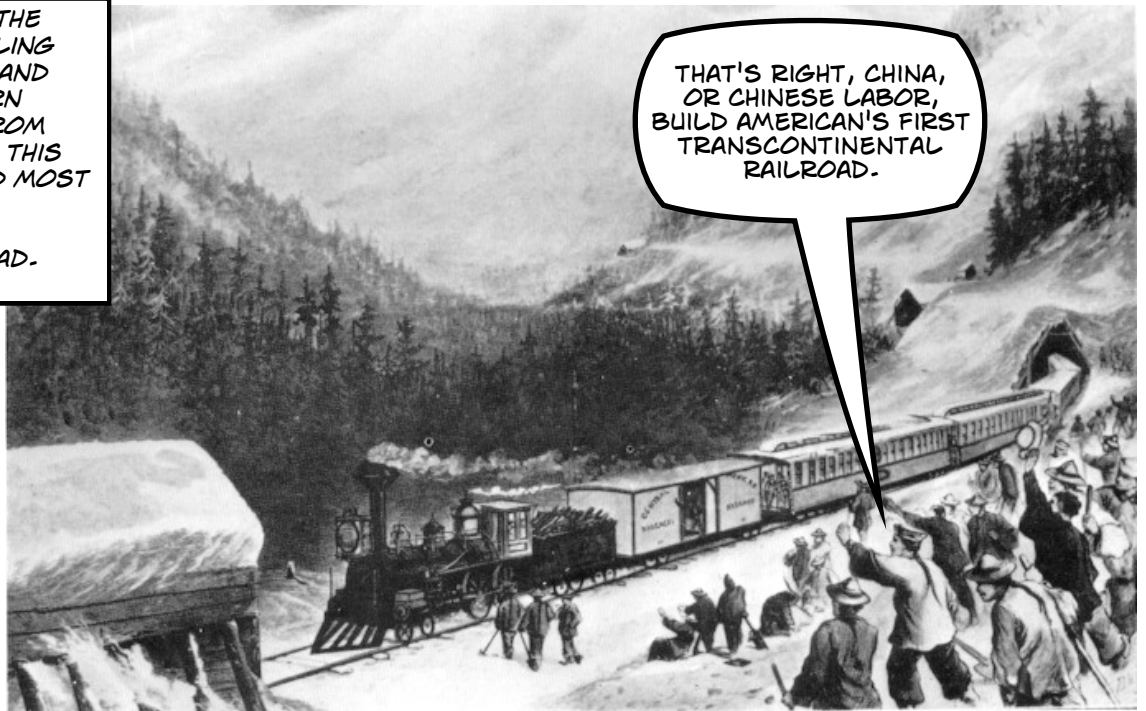


CHINA HAD PROBLEMS, SERIOUS PROBLEMS. MANY OF THOSE PROBLEMS WERE CREATED BY WHITE EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS WHO REPEATEDLY ATTACKED CHINA AND FORCED THE COUNTRY TO GIVE THEM BETTER AND BETTER TRADE DEALS.

SOME CHINESE MEN LEFT CHINA TO WORK ON THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD. THEY SAVED THEIR MONEY AND SENT IT BACK TO RELATIVES IN CHINA. OTHERS OPENED LAUNDRIES AND OTHER SERVICES.



CHINESE LABORS DID THE HARD WORK OF TUNNELING THROUGH MOUNTAINS AND BUILDING THE WESTERN PACIFIC'S RAIL LINE FROM CALIFORNIA TO UTAH. THIS WAS THE HARDEST AND MOST DANGEROUS PART OF BUILDING THE TRANS CONTINENTAL RAILROAD.



THAT'S RIGHT, CHINA, OR CHINESE LABOR, BUILD AMERICAN'S FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAME UP WITH ALL MANNER OF WAYS TO HASSLE CHINESE.



EVEN THE UNIONS TRIED TO DRIVE WE CHINESE OUT OF THE WESTERN UNITED STATES. IT WAS A VICIOUS CAMPAIGN.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PUT TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON CHINA AND EVENTUALLY JAPAN TO STOP THEIR PEOPLE FROM TRYING TO IMMIGRATE TO AMERICA.

IT IS NOT HARD TODAY TO FIND ALL TYPES OF ANTI-CHINESE CARTOONS, DRAWINGS, AND ARTICLES.

PRESIDENT BENJAMIN HARRISON WHO WAS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN RIGHTS, HATED AND FEARED CHINESE AND JAPANESE.

Statement of REGISTERED CHINESE LABORERS ABOUT TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES WITH THE INTENTION OF RETURNING THERE.

Made in compliance with the act of Congress entitled "An Act to prohibit the coming into and to regulate the residence within the United States, by foreigners, and all territory under its jurisdiction, and the Department of Commerce, of Chinese persons and persons of Chinese descent," approved April 10, 1902, and the Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor in conformity therewith.

I HEREBY DECLARE that I am a Chinese laborer, duly registered as such, under the act of May 3, 1907, promulgated by the act of September 8, 1902. My certificate of residence which constituted this statement was issued by the Collector of Internal Revenue for the THIRD District of INDIANA at INDIANAPOLIS, IN.

Date April 11 1911, and received 100710

Name Chen Jing

Present age 10071018 1901 years

Local residence 10071018 1901, 10118, IN.

Occupation Seamstress

Height 5 feet 10 1/2 inches. Weight 110 lbs.

Color of eyes BROWN Complexion Dark

Physical marks or peculiarities for identification

None

(To be certified by) 10071018 1901

I CERTIFY that the facts, or property, or debts described below:

ABSENT With, without nothing nothing

(To be certified by) nothing nothing

Parent, nearest



MANY WHITES CONSIDERED THE CHINESE DIRTY, DOG-EATERS WHO CARRIED ALL TYPES OF DISEASES AND WERE VILE PAGANS WILLING TO MURDER WHITES AT THE DROP OF A HAT.



WHEN SOMETHING WENT WRONG IN A COMMUNITY, THE CHINESE WERE THE FIRST TO BE BLAMED.

IN 1882, THE U.S. CONGRESS PASSED THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT THAT STOPPED THE FLOW OF CHINESE IMMIGRANTS.



DEEP CREEK— LOCATED ALONG THE OREGON SIDE OF THE SNAKE RIVER IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST OF THE UNITED STATES, WAS THE STAGE OF AN EPIC MASSACRE . CHINESE IMMIGRANT MINERS ONCE USED THIS AREA. THEY FOUND IT AS A CONVENIENT PLACE TO CAMP OUT WHILE THEY MINED GOLD IN HELL'S CANYON. AROUND MAY OF 1887, 34 CHINESE MINERS WERE MASSACRED AT THIS VERY LOCATION. THE CULPRITS? SEVEN HORSE THIEVES. EVERY MAN CAMPED AT THE LOCATION WAS KILLED. SOME VICTIMS WERE SHOT DOWN FROM THE CLIFFS; OTHERS WERE SLAUGHTERED BY ATTACKERS ALONG THE RIVER. ONE CHINESE MAN TRIED TO ESCAPE IN A BOAT AFTER THE CRIMINALS HAD RAN OUT OF AMMUNITION. THE HORSE THIEVES CHASED HIM DOWN AND FINISHED HIM OFF WITH A ROCK.

IT WAS SAID THAT THE CHINESE HAD VERY LITTLE WEAPONRY TO FIGHT BACK DURING THE SURPRISE ATTACK. ONE MAN HAD A PISTOL, BUT WAS ONLY ABLE TO FIRE SIX SHOTS BEFORE RUNNING OUT OF AMMO. THE BODIES OF THE VICTIMS WERE TOSSED INTO THE RIVER, AND THEIR GOLD DUST STOLEN. THE AMOUNT OF GOLD THEY HAD MINED ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN \$4,000-\$5,000, AN ABSOLUTE FORTUNE BY THE STANDARDS OF THE TIME. THREE OF THE SEVEN HORSE THIEVES WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH MURDER. ONE OF THEM WAS ONLY FIFTEEN YEARS OLD. THE OTHERS FLED AND WERE NEVER SEIZED. THE THREE THAT WERE ARRESTED STOOD TRIAL AND WERE EVENTUALLY DISCHARGED, EVEN WITH EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE HORRENDOUS CRIME WAS NEARLY FORGOTTEN. THE SEVEN HORSE THIEVES HAD GOTTEN AWAY WITH THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY. IN 2005, THE AREA WAS RENAMED THE CHINESE MASSACRE COVE.





IMMIGRANTS PROVIDED THE HUGE
SELF-RENEWING LABOR POOL THAT
MANNED THE NEW FACTORIES,
FOUNDEERIES, AND MILLS.

WITHOUT THEM, THE BIG
BUSINESSMEN WOULD HAVE BEEN
DESPERATE FOR WORKER.

IMMIGRANTS. WE BUILT
AMERICA!

